

Message Text

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73

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 PA-01

RSC-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /027 W

----- 047829

R 130210Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1064

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

COMUSSAG NKP THAILAND

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COMIPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 15390

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION SAIGON IMMEDIATE DTD 12 DEC 74 REPEATED

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAN THO 0363

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS VS

SUBJECT: UPSURGE IN DELTA FIGHTING

REF: CAN THO 356, 357, 359

1. HEAVY FIGHTING IN MR4 CONTINUES INTO THE SEVENTH DAY WITH 375 VC/NVA-INITIATED INCIDENTS REPORTED IN 48 HOURS ENDING THIS MORNING. INCIDENTS CONTINUE TO BE MORE WIDELY DISPERSED, WITH PRESSURE ON VINH BINH AND CHUONG THIEN CONTINUING, WHILE ACTIVITY IN NORTHERN DELTA INCREASES. RVNAF LOSSES IN 48 HOURS: 146 KIA, 510 WIA, 132 MIA.

2. IN KIEN TUONG PROVINCE, NINE OUTPOSTS ATTACKED IN PAST 48 HOURS BUT NONE OVERRUN OR ABANDONED. SHELLINGS OF KIEN BINH DISTRICT TOWN AND MOC HOA ON DECEMBER 10 AND 11 TOOK CIVILIAN TOLL OF ELEVEN KILLED AND SEVEN WOUNDED. DINH TUONG PROVINCE REPORTS EIGHTEEN OB'S ATTACKED WITH SEVEN
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LOSING COMMO. ONE HAMLET OFFICE ALSO ATTACKED AND LOST

COMMO. HIGHWAY 4 REMAINS OPEN, BUT ROUTES 20, 29 AND 30 ALL CLOSED. KIEN HOA PROVINCE REPORTS ONE OB AND FIVE HAMLET OFFICES OVERRUN, WHILE TWO OB'S AND ONE HAMLET OFFICE WITHSTOOD ATTACKS. HAM LONG, MO CAY AND PHUOC HUNG DISTRICT TOWNS ALL SHELLED WITH NO CASUALTIES, BUT SHELLING OF BEN TRE THIS MORNING KILLED THREE CIVILIANS AND WOUNDED THREE. ONE VILLAGE CHIEF AND TWO HAMLET CHIEFS HAVE BEEN ASSASSINATED. TOTAL KIEN HOA CIVILIAN CASUALTIES FOPDRIIDKFP HOURS ARE ELEVEN KILLED AND THIRTEEN WOUNDED. IN KIEN PHONG PROVINCE, THREE SHELLINGS OF MY AN DISTRICT TOWN OVER PAST THREE DAYS HAVE KILLED TEN CIVILIANS, WOUNDED TEN OTHERS. OTHER FIGHTING CENTERS IN CAO LANH (D), WITH TWO OB'S OVERRUN, ONE SINCE RECOVERED.

3. PARTIAL REPORTS FROM VINH BINH PROVINCE INDICATE HEAVY FIGHTING CONTINUING IN TIEU CAN AND CANG LONG DISTRICTS. TWO VILLAGE HQ'S BEING HEAVILY SHELLED TODAY WITH RESULTS NOT YET AVAILABLE. IN PHONG DINH, DISTRICT TOWN OF THUAN NHON UNDER HEAVY GROUND ATTACK BUT INFORMATION INCOMPLETE.

4. TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS OUTLINED REFTELS STILL APPLY EXCEPT FOR TRAVEL BETWEEN CAN THO AND CHAU DOC ON ROUTES 27/10, NOW PERMISSABLE 0900-1700 HOURS.

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